Shortfall in freight traffic

6820. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been a shortfall in the freight traffic by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) what is the ratio-between freight traffic moved by Railways and roadways,

(d) how it compares with the ratio in 1970 and 1980,

(e) what are the reasons for Railways not able to attract more freight traffic and

(f) the details of steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (Shri C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Against the Revised Estimate of 362 million tonnes, Railways loaded 362.11 million tonnes during 1993-94.

(c) and (d) The share of rail traffic in 1970-71, 1980-81 and 1993-94 is given below:—

Share of Railways in Freight Traffic in the Country

Year	Percentage
1970-71	66
1980-81	62
1993-94	40

(e) and (f) Freight earning traffic moved by Railways rose from 196.5 million tonnes in 1970-71 to 362.11 million tonnes in 1993-94. However, new marketing strategies including multimodal transportation have been adopted to attract more traffic.

Laying of new Rail Lines in backward Areas of M.P.

6821. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the density of rail routes, zone-wise,

(b) what is Government's policy regarding provision of new railway lines in the backward regions;

(c) the railway lines length per thousand square kilometers, Statewise;

(d) what are the reasons for low Profits of Madhya Pradesh so far as rail line per thousand square km. is concerned; and

(e) whether Government propose to develop railway lines in the backward areas of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) and (c) The information is maintained statewise and not zone, wise. The same as on 31.3.93 is contained in Statement (*See* below).

(b) New lines are provided in accordance with the criteria laid down by the National Transport Policy Committee which include construction of developmental line to establish new growth centres or give access to remote areas. Surveys for new lines are taken up on the basis of suggestions received from State Governments, MPs and other Ministries. Once the results of the survey indicate primafacie that the line would fall in one of the categories approved by NTPC, the survey reports are sent to the Planning Commission and if they concur, the works are taken up subject to availability of resources.

(d) MP is the largest State of India in area however, the density of population is lower. Thus while the route kms, per thousand sq. kms of area are low, the route kms. per lakh of population is 9.05, which is one of the best among the states after Rajasthan 13.08, Gujarat 12.82, Assam 11.06 and Punjab 10.05.